Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /076 W

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R 261343Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5471 INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EINV, EG

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO LAW 43

REF: CAIRO 8801

1. EMBOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY TO QUERY DR. AHMAD ABU ISMAIL, CHAIRMAN, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY (PA) BUDGET AND PLAN COMMITTEE ON PA'S PLANS FOR SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITING GOE OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF PA FROM HOLDING OFFICES IN LAW 43 VENTURES FOR STIPULATED PERIOD OF TIME AFTER END OF THEIR GOVERNMENT SERVICE. AS NOTED REFTEL, SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON THIS DOES NOT APPEAR IN PA VERSION OF AMENDMENTS, ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTED AND OTHER VERSIONS CONTAIN SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON THIS SUBJECT. ABU ISAMIL SAID THAT THERE WAS NEVER ANY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC PROHIBITION. CODE OF ETHICS NOW PREVAILING IS ADEOUATE TO COVER ANY PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE. ACCORDING TO ABU ISMAIL, CURRENT GUIDELINES STATE THAT GOE OFFICIALS OR PA MEMBERS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY DUSINCESS DEALS UNLESS THEY ARE "FOUNDING PARTNERS", I.E., THEY SHOULD NOT ACCEPT FAVORS FROM COMPANIES, BUT THEY ARE FREE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AND PERSONALLY IN INITIATING INVESTMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROJECTS. WE SAID THAT EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN SATISFIED ONCE EXISTING REGULATIONS WERE MADE CLEAR.

2. COMMENT: ABOVE DOES NOT SQURE WITH INVESMTNET AUTHORITY OPINION THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS WILL APPEAR IN LAW 43 REVISIONS. SUSPECT, HOWEVER, ABU ISMAIL IS CORRECT. FYI ABU ISMAIL TOLD

US THAT HE, FOR INSTANCE, IS IN PROCESS OF "FOUNDING A BANK" TOGETHER WITH KUWAITI INTERESTS. HE PLANS TO BE BANK'S PRESIDENT WHICH UNDER HIS GUIDELINES WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH HIS PA RESPONSIBILITIES.

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